

Department of Licensing
Washington State Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board Meeting
December 2, 2005

1. Call the meeting to order at 7:08.
2. Introduction of the Board Members
 - Tom Wolfe: Washington State Patrol
 - Larry Walker: Club Member/Washington Road Riders Association
 - Pat Barnes: Public Member
 - Bruce Santy: Club Member/BMWOA
 - James Wihlborg: Club Member/ABATE
 - Carl Spurgeon: WMSP Coordinator and DOL Liaison
3. Explanation of the Board
 - The Advisory Board was established by law to gather public input about motorcycling safety, and report the findings to the Department of Licensing Director.
4. Review the minutes from the last meeting-Approved
5. Old Business
 - No Old Business
6. Reports
 - Web Page Update Ronell Osberg

Ronell read an email sent by Portia about the progress of the new Website. The new rollout date is now March 17, 2006. Motorcycles have been moved to a more visible level of the new website. The usability study will be done in February, and she still has the names and email addresses of everyone on the advisory board. On the current site we installed a new search engine. This new search engine, so now it is easier to find the motorcycle information from any page on the DOL website.

Action Item: Have Portia attend next meeting.

- WMSP Program Budget Ronell Osberg
- Ronell reported that the forecast for the Motorcycle Program is looking better than first expected. This is because of the rise in motorcycle endorsements, and registrations with higher gas prices.

Action Item: Don Arlow to report on the Motorcycle Budget at the next meeting.

- Proviso Report to Legislature Carl Spurgeon

As a requirement of the extra funding, we are to report to the legislature what we have accomplished over the past year by November 1st every year. We have heard nothing back, and no questions to be answered, so we assume that they didn't have a problem with the proviso report. This report tracks what progress we are making on implementing the Recommendations from the Program Assessment accomplished in 2001.

Schedule a working meeting the first part of February

- Administrative Audits Carl Spurgeon

Steve started the administrative audits last month on the Vancouver site, and next week will conduct one on Spokane. Most of the contractors have received a copy of the draft administrative audit forms. The internal auditors have been encouraging program staff to develop such a process. These audits are being conducted to ensure compliance with your RFPs, contracts and Policies and Procedures, which are part of your contracts. We are using these audits not only to ensure compliance but also to function as mentor support to our sponsors. Steve has scheduled one contract a month to review for the next year. This is a fairly lengthy process, by spending the first two days in our office going over their contract and files in our office and looking at any issues that need to be addressed. The next day and a half is spent at the contract location and with the contractor, and then another day or two writing the findings, and placing it into a final report.

- GMAP Report Carl Spurgeon

This briefing took place last Wednesday morning to the Governor. DOL is in a three-agency partnership of the Department Of Licensing, Traffic Safety Commission, and Washington State Patrol. The charts presented represent all motorcycle fatalities. There were 37 motorcycle fatalities in 2000 compared to 72 fatalities in 2004, and 72 so far this year, and the year is not over yet. The number of bikes purchased has increased by 62% in the past 5 years. Nationally, fatalities have also increase over the past 5 years so it is a bigger problem than just Washington. Three cause factors were identified far beyond all other factors in these crashes, which are failure to maintain lane position, speed and/or alcohol. Another finding, which represents approximately 40% of the operators, is that they lacked an endorsement for motorcycle operation.

Action Item: Jim will be writing a recommendation to place the motorcycle charts on the webpage. Addressed to the Director.

- Sponsor Quarterly Budget Ronell Osberg

Here are the final numbers for the 1st quarter. Some of the sponsors were way over their projections. With that Ronell requested revised projections to take in account for what they were over. Most of the contractors came in under their projected amounts, but no one was way under budget.

7. New business

- Ferry Boarding for Motorcycles Larry Walker

The following letter was sent to Larry Walker for review.

Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2005 10:00 AM

Subject: Motorcycle Incident

Dear:

I am a friend of ... They suggested that I contact you regarding a motorcycle incident I was involved in at the Kingston Ferry Terminal on August 5th. If nothing else it defines the problems that exist when motorcycles attempt to enter lines at ferry terminals.

According to Susan Harris, Communications Director for the Washington State Ferry (WSF) system and David Anderson, the Kingston Terminal Supervisor for WSF, I was permitted (by policy, if not by law) to enter the toll booths from the local traffic lane. Unfortunately, when I did so, I was treated aggressively by a driver that did not want to let me merge. As I began my merge he put his SUV up against my leg to make his point. In response, I slammed on the hood and was subsequently charged with Malicious Mischief in the Third Degree.

Attached is detailed description of what happened. I'll also attach a photograph simulating what occurred using the same model year and vehicle that was involved in the incident.

It would be helpful if you or your organization would be willing to weigh in on my behalf (perhaps by providing a letter that documents motorcycle privileges at ferry terminals and/or pointing to such incidents resulting from an undocumented policy/law that leave drivers uninformed). It would also be helpful if you could provide any information that might help in my defense (for example, any precedent of motor vehicles threatening motorcyclists).

Even if this is not an incident worthy of your time, I will note that Susan Harris of WSF commented to me that she is trying to get a bill passed that makes motorcycle privileges explicit because "incidents like yours have become so common".

Please don't hesitate to call me if you would like to discuss the incident or have any questions. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Larry has contact the Washington Ferry System, and spoke to Susan Harris. The State Ferry System does realize that there is a problem, and is considering action to allow the Ferry System to revise the WAC. Larry wants approval from the board to ask that they do a public awareness campaign about motorcycles and boarding ferries.

Action Item: Permission to ask the Ferry System to do a public awareness campaign after the WAC has been revised. Board approved.

- 2006 Board Meeting Dates

Ronell Osberg

The 2006 Board Meeting Schedule was approved by the board members. They are scheduled as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 3, 2006	Lacey LSO
June 2, 2006	Lacey LSO
*September 8, 2006	Moses Lake LSO
December 1, 2006	Lacey LSO

8. Comments from the Board

Pat-Are the new brochures being distributed to all sponsors? Yes. They can also be ordered through the Traffic Safety Commissions web page in quantities up to 500.

Is there a plan in place to distribute them to the Dealers, and Clubs? Yes.

Jim-No Comments

Larry- The motorcycle language to generalize the curriculum is stalled in the House Transportation Committee. Representative Jeff Simpson pulled his sponsorship on the HOV lane-sharing bill and it is now stalled in the House Transportation Committee.

The free left turn lane is stalled in the House Transportation.

The lane-splitting bill is deceased on arrival, but people have great interest in this topic. Representative Jeff Morris is the only sponsor on this bill, and will be working with us on cleaning up the language on the bill.

9. Public Forum

Military training issue. See working meeting notes for detail, but this refers to the large number of military that are mandated training, not Washington residents, get reimbursed for training from DOD but are being charged tuition at a state resident rate. It is too late to get the language into the Department Of Licensing Legislative package. We are trying to get this onto the governor's request. If not then WRRRA will be standing by to try and insert legislation.

Bret-1:1 ratio-PSS is closing classes, and are turning students away. There is the demand to carry more full-cost classes. Please reconsider the revising the contract with some sort of stipulation in it to provide more than a 1:1 ratio.

Action Item for the next working board meeting to find the solution.

10. **Adjourn 9:25

General Information:

DOL web page is <http://www.wa.gov/dol/drivers/wmsp.htm>

WMSP Coordinator, Carl Spurgeon 1-800-962-9010 choice 9.